

### **Amendment to the Specification**

Please replace the abstract with the following new abstract

#### **Abstract**

Human  $\alpha_2$ -antiplasmin ( $\alpha_2$ AP) is the major inhibitor of the proteolytic enzyme plasmin that digests fibrin. Two forms of  $\alpha_2$ AP circulate in human plasma: a 464-residue protein, which we have termed "pro"-form, or  $\alpha_2$ AP<sub>pro</sub>, and an N-terminally-shortened 452-residue "activated"-form, or  $\alpha_2$ AP<sub>act</sub>. The latter becomes crosslinked to fibrin by activated factor XIII about 5-fold more rapidly than  $\alpha_2$ AP<sub>pro</sub> and makes fibrin resistant to digestion by plasmin. A new human plasma proteinase has been identified herein that cleaves the Pro12-Asn13 bond of  $\alpha_2$ AP<sub>pro</sub> to yield  $\alpha_2$ AP<sub>act</sub>. This enzyme is identified herein as Antiplasmin Cleaving Enzyme (APCE).